[English]

Machines Lying Idle

1208. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Expensive machines lying unused at CIL" appeared in Statesman dated January 15, 1997;

(b) if so, whether several machines purchased by the CIL and installed at various coalfields are lying unused;

(c) the exact cost of those machines and the purpose for which machines are purchased; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to make full use of those machines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. 92 Nos. of very small aperture terminals (VSAT) for working with remote area business message net-work (RABMN) of the Deptt. of Telecom were purchased and installed in different subsidiary companies of Coal India Ltd. 39 terminals were rendered idle after use for some time due to reorganisation of areas and mines in ECL. So far 14 terminals have been relocated leaving 25 terminals idle as on date. The cost of each VSAT is Rs. 7,44,676.70. The VSATs were purchased in 1992. These were purchased for point to point data communications among different areas and important projects within the subsidiary companies and between different subsidiary companies by using Deptt. of Telecommunications RABMN as per phase III of coal net.

(d) As stated in (a) to (c) above, action has already been taken since October, 1993 to relocate the idle VSATs to other areas/projects for their gainful utilisation.

Utilisation of DGS&D Services by Ministries/Departments

1209. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether services of DGS&D can be utilized by any Central Government Ministries/Departments;

(b) if so, the details of notification issued in this regard;

(c) whether a number of indents are returned to Central Government Ministries/Departments for direct purchases by them;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of such indents returned to various Central Ministries/ Departments during each of the last three years; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Central Government Ministries/Departments are to make purchases of items of common use covered under DGS&D Rate Contracts, where the value of purchase exceeds delegated powers of direct purchase i.e. Rs. 20,000/- at a time and Rs. 1 Lakh aggregate in a year. Procurement of items not covered on DGS&D Rate Contracts is to be made by the Ministries/Departments directly. Ad-hoc indents for items not covered under DGS&D rate contracts, raised by any Central Government Ministries/Departments on DGS&D, are also accepted only as exceptions, subject to the prescribed guidelines. These have been inter alia notified vide Department of Supply O.M. Nos. P. III-1(9)/95 dated 26th July, 1995 and 6th December, 1995.

(c) to (e) Wherever ad-hoc indents raised on DGS&D are not in accordance with the prescribed guidelines, these are returned to the concerned Ministries/ Departments for direct procurement.

Export of Cotton

1210. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :
SHRI SANAT MEHTA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cotton producing States particularly Gujarat have demanded for release of further quota of cotton for export in order to ensure reasonable price of cotton to growers;

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the details of quota released by the Government for cotton export during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To date, quota of 1.00 lakh bales has been allotted to the Gujarat State Cooperative Cotton Federation Ltd. Cotton export quotas are announced by the Government after taking into consideration all relevant factors including estimates of production, availability, consumption, likely surplus, price trends etc. Government endeavours to balance the interests of the cotton growers on the one hand and on the other, the cotton consuming sectors, particularly the decentralised handloom weavers.

(c) During the last three years, details of quota released are as follows :

Year	Quota Released (in lakh bales)
1993-94	5.00
1994-95	1.856
1995-96	15.900